

## IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

**Please AMEND claims 1, 13 and 18 and ADD new claim 25 in accordance with the following:**

1. (Currently Amended) A product information supply method comprising:  
receiving combination information about combinations of products, containing a relationship between the combined products, from a terminal of an individual who has bought the combination of products;  
making registration of said combination information in a database, so that the combination information can be accumulated;  
searching the database in response to inquiries about the combination information extracted from the database; and  
allowing a plurality of consumers to each purchase a same combination of products via a network, as that of the combination of products purchased by the individual.
2. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein each of said inquiries correspond to a choice signal that indicates a product chosen at a terminal of a consumer in order to specify a candidate for purchase or place a buy order.
3. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said inquiries are sent from terminals of said consumers.
4. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said inquiries are sent by the terminals of the consumers via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products included in the combination of products.
5. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising storing information concerning a number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the corresponding combination information supplied to a terminal of a consumer.

6. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein:

the corresponding combination information includes information about a link to a Web page that introduces the combination of products to the consumers; and

the method further comprises storing information concerning a number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

7. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising providing the individual who has made registration of the combination information with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information registered by said individual, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

8. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising determining priority of supplying a consumer with the combination information on the basis of the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the corresponding combination information.

9. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising providing, from a seller who sells the combination of products or an operating person who operates the Web site, a managing person who manages the database, with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information registered by said individual, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

10. (Original) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein the combination information stored in the database is registered by an e-mail or a Web page for making registration.

11. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising:

confirming that a buy order of the same combination of products is placed on the basis of

the corresponding combination information extracted from the database and sent to the consumer; and

sending an e-mail to the terminal of the consumer to ask the consumer to make registration of combination information to be stored in the database after a predetermined period lapses from confirmation.

12. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising producing marketing information from the combination information, the marketing information being sold to another person or organization.

13. (Currently Amended) A product information acquiring method comprising:  
acquiring combination information about combination of products as that of the combination of products purchased by a person, containing a relationship between the combined products;

sending inquiry information about the combination information concerning the combination of products to a server that manages a database storing the combination information that has been registered by the person who has purchased the combination of products; and

outputting, from the server, corresponding combination information extracted from the database by search of the database based on the inquiry information.

14. (Previously Presented) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, wherein said inquiry information is sent as a choice signal which indicates that the same combination of products was chosen at a terminal of a consumer in order to specify a candidate for purchase or place a buy order.

15. (Previously Presented) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, wherein said inquiry information is sent by the terminal of the consumer via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products; and

said combination information is received by the terminal of the consumer via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products

16. (Previously Presented) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, further comprising:

sending to the server a signal that places a buy order of a product on the basis of the combination information extracted from the database;

receiving, from the server, an e-mail that asks to make registration of combination information about said combination of products with the database after a predetermined period elapses from placement of the buy order; and

sending combination information including given items back to the server by an e-mail or access to a Web page for making registration of combination information described in said e-mail that asks to make registration.

17. (Previously Presented) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, further comprising rewarding the person based on a number of times a purchase of the same combination of products has been made or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the same combination of products, when reference is made by another consumer to the combination information that has been registered by said person or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

18. (Currently Amended) A product information registering method comprising:  
registering combination information corresponding to a combination of products to be bought together by a user who operates a terminal via a network, containing a relationship between the combined products;

entering given items of the combination information corresponding to the combination of products via the terminal of the user by an e-mail or access to a Web page for making registration of the combination information;

sending the given items of the combination information to a server that manages a database for storing the combination information; and

rewarding the user based on a number of times a purchase of a same combination of products has been made or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the combination of products, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said user or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for supplying a plurality of users who operate terminals to purchase a combination of products via a network, said program causing a computer to perform:

storing combination information about the combination of products that could be bought

together;

registering combination information that has been supplied by a person who has bought the product;

searching the database on the basis of inquiries about the combination of products from the users and sending corresponding combination information extracted therefrom to the terminals of the users as requested; and

storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of the same combination of products has been made by the users or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the combination of products, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said person or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

21. (Previously Presented) A product information supply apparatus comprising:

a database storing combination information about a combination of products purchased by a person;

registration making unit for making registration of combination information that has been supplied by the person who has bought the combination of products;

information outputting unit for searching the database on the basis of inquiry information about the combination of the products from users and sending corresponding combination information extracted therefrom to terminals of the users; and

reward storing unit for storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of a same combination of products has been made by the users or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the combination of products, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said person or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a registration unit to register a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;

an output unit to search for the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and

a reward unit to store a value indicating a reward for the person, based on a number of purchases of a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.

23. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
registering a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;  
searching for the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and  
rewarding the person, based on a number of purchases of a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
registering means for registering a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;  
searching means for searching the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and  
rewarding means for rewarding the person, based on a number of purchases of a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.

25. (New) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said combinations of products includes at least one of compatibility, complement, and added value as information describing information of the relationship.